

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 7TH OCTOBER 2015
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 17 December 2014, Council requested a report on the provision of defibrillators in the Falkirk Council area, with a view of supporting the partnership work being undertaken among the Scottish Government, British Heart Foundation and the Scottish Ambulance Service.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress in relation to:
- assisting with the mapping process;
 - identification of high risk buildings and locations;
 - increasing the number of defibrillators in the Falkirk Council area.

2.0 THE USE OF DEFIBRILLATORS

- 2.1 Defibrillation is well established as effective therapy following cardiac arrest, with scientific evidence supporting its use. Public Access Defibrillators (PAD's) can be found in a variety of public spaces such as local shopping centres, gyms or train stations. The device guides untrained individuals in the use of the defibrillator and will only activate a charge where an irregular heart beat is detected.
- 2.2 Defibrillators are automated, making them easy for non trained persons to use, although both semi and fully automatic defibrillators are available. The Scottish Ambulance has recommended the use of semi-automatic defibrillators as these remove the risk of accidental shocks when used by an untrained person.
- 2.3 The Scottish Ambulance Service stated that the use of defibrillators is now estimated to save 1 in 4 people experiencing a cardiac arrest. This is likely to improve with a more extensive availability of defibrillators.

3.0 SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE STRATEGY FOR THE USE OF DEFIBRILLATORS

- 3.1 The Scottish Ambulance Service is in the process of implementing a strategy to co-ordinate a network of defibrillators across the community, with the aim being to ensure accessibility across the whole community on a 24/7 basis.

The Ambulance Service suggests that the defibrillators should be based in high risk locations, as part of a network across Scotland, with the location of each defibrillator recorded and held centrally. This information would then be available to the Emergency Call Centres and in future, when a call is received regarding a potential cardiac arrest, the caller can be directed to the location of the nearest defibrillator. It is intended that this will offer increased accessibility and support to those assisting casualties.

- 3.2 As part this process, an audit of existing defibrillators has being carried out by the Scottish Ambulance Service. This has identified a number defibrillators in some supermarkets and other public access areas across the Falkirk Council area along with newly installed defibrillators across the Council area, e.g. dentist surgeries, health centres and other community organisations. More detailed information on the outcome of this process should be available shortly, once the full mapping process is complete by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

4.0 DEFIBRILLATORS WITHIN FALKIRK COUNCIL PREMISES

- 4.1 At present, within Falkirk Council, there are two defibrillators. These are currently located in:
- The Crematorium;
 - The Community Education Unit in Grangemouth (donated by local group);
- 4.2 There are an additional 3 within Falkirk Community Trust premises. These are located in:
- Grangemouth Sports Complex;
 - Grangemouth Stadium;
 - Bo'ness Recreation Centre.
- 4.3 The strategy being developed by the Scottish Ambulance Service provides an opportunity to review these arrangements and extend the use of defibrillators across the Council area.
- 4.4 The Scottish Ambulance Service has provided data on the incidents of cardiac arrests and chest pain emergency calls received in the previous 5 year period across parts of the Falkirk Council area (Appendix 1). Not all postcodes have been made available at this stage, however the information provided to date has been analysed and a mapping exercise undertaken in order to try and identify suitable Falkirk Council premises for any additional defibrillators. Based on the information received to date, and taking account of the high incident areas, with the aim of improving the location coverage across the Falkirk Council area, 14 premises have been identified as possible suitable locations that may benefit from installation of additional defibrillators (Appendix 2). These locations are based on the information received to date, which demonstrate areas that have experienced a high number of cardiac arrests.
- 4.5 As more information is received from the Scottish Ambulance Service, the locations number and/or locations of defibrillators may require to be reviewed. It may be for instance, depending on future statistics received, that alternative locations are identified and defibrillators can be moved from lower risk areas to higher risk areas.

5. RESOURCES

- 5.1 As noted above, the equipment recommended by the Scottish Ambulance Service is a semi-automatic defibrillator. The exact cost will depend on the model purchased and the outcome of the procurement exercise. On-line research suggests a cost of circa £1000 per unit. A recent procurement process however for similar equipment in another Local Authority suggests a cost of c£650 per unit. Based on this, an indicative cost is:

Cost of 1 Defibrillator:

Defibrillators: £650 for a semi-automatic defibrillator
Cabinets (storage): £100

Consumables:

Battery: £60 to £120 (Life span 2 to 4 years)
Pads (pair): £80 (Replace when used)
Additional costs for the supply of electrical connections for the cabinets at the chosen locations.

- 5.2 At present there is no identified budget available to support the purchase or installation of the units, which, for 14 units, is likely to be in excess of c£14,000. Further, there is no budget identified for ongoing costs, e.g. consumables as noted above. Finance Services have however indicated that budget can be found from existing resources should Members agree to proceed with the installation of the defibrillators.
- 5.3 In addition to the above, the Scottish Ambulance Service recommends that each defibrillator will require a “guardian”, who would have responsibility for the maintenance of the equipment. This would involve carrying out a check once a month to ensure the battery is charged and that the cabinet is clean. Duties will also include ordering/replacing batteries and pads.
- 5.4 Training in the use of the equipment and maintenance will be minimal and can be provided by Scottish Ambulance Service. First Aid Training for employees will also require to be reviewed to include the use of defibrillators as standard. This may result in a slight additional cost to the current training provision.
- 5.5 Some questions may be raised with regards to potential litigation in the event of improper use or unsuccessful use of defibrillators. The Scottish Ambulance Service indicated that they have not encountered this to date and do not see this as a realistic risk for employees. Where the defibrillator is used by a Falkirk Council employee, then their actions would be covered by Falkirk Council’s Insurance.
- 5.6 The Scottish Ambulance Service requires that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be entered into between Falkirk Council and themselves to agree standards of use/maintenance. Whilst Falkirk Council could purchase and install defibrillators independently with no requirement for an MOU, it is suggested that work is done in partnership with the Ambulance Service. Governance has been consulted and will continue to be consulted on the final documentation. It is worth noting that the initial draft provided did not raise any significant concerns with Governance.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 It is recommended that Council:

- (1) notes the content of the report; and**
- (2) asks Officers to continue to work with the Scottish Ambulance Service to develop and sign the Memorandum of Understanding and once agreed, arrange purchase and installation of suitable Defibrillators as noted at section 4.4.**

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

Date: 20 Aug 2015

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

APPENDIX 1

Number of Cardiac Arrest for all Falkirk postcodes

	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	TOTAL:
FK1 1	13	9	6	7	10	45
FK1 4	12	10	9	5	11	47
FK1 5	15	10	5	7	8	45
FK2 0	15	14	10	9	6	54
FK2 7	10	13	15	19	8	65
FK2 8	8	7	8	3	4	30
FK2 9	14	15	8	5	10	52
FK3 0	9	14	4	2	3	32
FK3 8	12	11	9	7	8	47
FK3 9	4	13	10	4	4	35
FK5 3	3	3	9	3	4	22
FK5 4	11	11	10	7	6	45
TOTAL	126	130	103	78	82	519

Appendix 2

Location	Recommended location of additional PAD's at Falkirk Council Premises
Falkirk	Dorrator Court
	Glenfuir Court
	Leishman Tower
	Victoria Primary School
	Bainsford Community Centre
	Easter Carmuir's Primary School
Larbert & Stenhousemuir	Torwood Residential Care Home
	Inchlair Nursery
	Carron Primary School
	Carronshore Primary School
Grangemouth	Cunningham House
	Sacred Heart Primary School
Braes	Maddiston Primary School
	The Grange CLD

